

IN THE DRAWINGS

The drawings have been amended to include features of the claims. FIG. 1 has been amended to include the legend - - Prior Art - - as that which is shown is old. In claim 1, the through slots 316 are shown in FIG. 23C. In claim 6, the hollow interior and aperture in the end of the plates is now shown in FIG. 23A. Claim 11 has been cancelled. The replacement sheets have been marked up in red and will be replaced with formal drawings upon approval by the examiner.

REMARKS

Of claims 1-17 pending in this application, Claims 1-2, 13, 15 have been amended and claims 8, 11, and 14 have been cancelled. Reconsideration in view of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In the drawings, FIGS 1 and 23A have been amended to show the subject to he claims 1 and 6. Claims 8, 11 and 14 have been cancelled. Support for the matter added in FIG. 23A is found on page 14, lines 25-25 and page 15, lines 1-14.

In the specification, the specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors and to also add material in the proper locations for antecedents for claims 1, 6, 9 and 10.

Support for claim 1 is already present on page 19, lines 9-15, as the slots are called out as slots 316. Pivot 306 has been changed to pivot pin 306. In claim 9, the bone growth promoting substances has been added to the specification in relation to FIG. 23A. In claim 6, the specification has been supplemented to include the hollow interior and aperture in relation to FIG 23A. Also, the specification has been supplemented to include that the plates are composed of bone in FIG. 23A. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

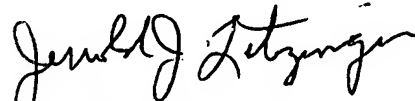
Claims 1, 2, 13, and 15 stand objected to because of minor informalities noted by the examiner. As these claims have been amended according to the examiner's suggestions, it is believed that these objections have been overcome.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC§101 by being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 13 has been amended to conform to the examiner's suggestions, so it is believed that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC§112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In addition, claim 14 also stands rejected under 35 USC §112. As claim 8 and 14 have been cancelled, this rejection should be overcome.

It is now believed that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on Jan 23, 2006.

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Jan 23, 2006
Date of Signature